

**Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY)**  
**Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY)**  
**Rep. Dan Maffei (D-NY)**  
**Rep. Richard Hanna (R-NY)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\*\*\*Press Release\*\*\***

**On Anniversary of Seneca Falls Convention,  
Upstate NY Members of Congress Introduce  
Legislation to Reauthorize National Women’s  
Rights History Project Act**

WASHINGTON – Today, Congress Members Louise M. Slaughter (NY-25), Tom Reed (NY-23), Dan Maffei (NY-24), and Richard Hanna (NY-22) introduced legislation to reauthorize the National Women’s Rights History Project Act on the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Seneca Falls Convention. The Act was signed into law in 2009 after nearly a decade of work by Rep. Slaughter and former New York Senator Hillary Clinton, and will be influential in supporting and promoting the efforts of the women’s rights movement in Western New York and throughout the country.

“The struggle for women’s rights in this country was one filled with passion and sacrifice, and it is our charge to promote and preserve its legacy,” **said Rep. Slaughter, the first woman to Chair the powerful House Committee on Rules.** “Through their hard work and dedication, all Americans now recognize the importance of this battle for civil rights. Its lasting impacts can still be seen today with a record number of women currently serving in the 113<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress.”

“We’re proud to represent areas like Seneca Falls that have changed the course of American history so profoundly,” **Rep. Tom Reed said.** “Western New York is home to some of the most

significant women's rights sites and I look forward to working with my colleagues to bring recognition to the National Women's Rights History Project Act to raise awareness and understanding of the dedication of the women who helped change history."

**Rep. Dan Maffei said**, "Central and Western New York have such a rich history as the home to the women's rights movement. This important legislation extends the National Women's Rights History Project so that we can continue to tell the important story of the struggle for women's rights and share our region's rich history with future generations. This legislation also establishes a 'Votes for Women Trail' between Syracuse and Rochester which will help tell the story about the important role our region played in the women's suffrage movement. I am proud to support this legislation and look forward to working with Rep. Slaughter to get it signed into law."

"Today marks the 165th anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention where some of the greatest women in our history bravely gathered to begin a national conversation about the role of women in American society," **Rep. Hanna said**. "That conversation continues today. We should always work to promote this significant part of our history."

## **BACKGROUND**

The National Women's Rights History Project Act preserves and promotes historic sites in Western New York and around the country that are significant to the women's rights movement and its role in the history of our democracy.

Specifically, the National Women's Rights History Project Act will establish an auto route – the Votes for Women Trail – linking women's suffrage movement sites between Syracuse, NY and throughout the Finger Lakes region to Rochester, NY.

It will also expand the current National Registry of "Places Where Women Made History" to include additional historic sites.

Finally, this project will establish a public-private partnership network to offer financial and technical assistance for educational programs about the history of the fight for women's rights.

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